

VZCZCXRO3773  
PP RUEHFK RUEHKSO RUEHNAG RUEHNH  
DE RUEHKO #3439 2080402  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
P 270402Z JUL 07  
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5898  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUCPDO/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RUYNAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY  
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY  
RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY  
RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY  
RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY  
RUALSFJ/COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA PRIORITY  
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 2268  
RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 4693  
RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 1325  
RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 3050  
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 5866  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 8087  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1787  
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 4151  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 5183  
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

UNCLAS TOKYO 003439

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,  
EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;  
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;  
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;  
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;  
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;  
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OIIP](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [JA](#)

SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - AFGHANISTAN HOSTAGE  
SITUATION

LEAD STORIES: Friday morning's Asahi and Mainichi ran the results of their latest nationwide opinion surveys, each showing that the main opposition DPJ is cruising toward a major victory in Sunday's Upper House election.

1. "Taliban's Indiscriminate Brutality" The business-oriented Nihon Keizai editorialized (7/27): "The Taliban have executed one of the 23 South Korean hostages that the group has been holding. The Koreans had entered the country on a relief mission. This is yet another example of the Taliban's indiscriminate terrorist acts.... Recently, a senior Taliban official clearly told a British TV network that the group intends to kidnap any foreigners in the country and exchange them for Taliban fighters held by US and other NATO forces. Assistance from international organizations and foreign countries is indispensable for Afghanistan, which is still trying to recover, with NGO groups from many countries rushing to the country on relief missions. Important though these missions may be, members of NGOs should be aware that Afghanistan is still a very dangerous place."

2. "Don't Harm Innocent People" An editorial in the liberal Mainichi commented (7/27): "Is it considered just under Islam to kidnap defenseless foreigners and execute them if demands made of their governments are not met? This idea will not fly anywhere. The Taliban have executed a South Korean pastor who was among a 23-member South Korean relief mission. The number of

captives is now 22. Though the South Korean government plans to send a special envoy to Afghanistan to resolve the matter, the situation remains volatile.... Should the hostage situation drag out or the Taliban further harm their captives, this will only tarnish the reputation of Muslim people as a whole. The Taliban should immediately and unconditionally release all the hostages...."

SCHIEFFER